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CHESTER-LE-STREET
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
and Sanitary Inspectors

FOR THE YEAR 1945.

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GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

CHESTER-LE-STREET RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
CHESTER-LE-STREET,
August, 1946.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary condition of the Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1945.

Many restrictions on the scope of the Annual Report imposed during the War have now been removed, and the report assumes its pre-war appearance. Taken on the whole, I think the report indicates a satisfactory state of Public Health.

There has been a slight increase in the estimated resident mid-year population. The birth rate is a little lower than the previous year and there has been a slight increase in the death rate.

It must, however, be remembered that there is a change in the age distribution of the population, people are living longer, and this reflects itself in the death rate, where 52% of the total deaths occurred in persons aged 65 and over.

There has been a reduction in the infantile and maternal mortality rates. Whilst these figures are pleasing, they must not give rise to complacency, because these rates can and must be further reduced.

Infectious diseases have been less prevalent, with the exception of measles, which assumed epidemic proportions during the year. Periodic variations in the incidence of infectious disease are a commonplace, and it is possible that a part of the reduction in Diphtheria cases in the last few years was due to such variation. It cannot be conclusively demonstrated that the increasing proportion of children immunised and the decline in Diphtheria incidence are cause and effect, nevertheless by reference to morbidity and fatality figures, it is possible to prove the advantage possessed by the immunised over the un-immunised.

67% of the children aged 1—5, and 65% of children aged 5—15 years have been protected against Diphtheria in this district.

These figures are satisfactory, but should only spur us to further effort in securing the optimum number immunised of 75% of the susceptible child population.

The number of notifications received of new cases of Tuberculosis, was less than in the previous year, and considerably less than in the years 1941-42. There was, however, an increase in the number of deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and this may in some respects be accounted for by inadequate housing accommodation.

The number of deaths from Cancer during the year showed another rise, and this disease must receive our full effort with a view to its reduction and cure.

Housing conditions in the area are appalling, and housing must of necessity be the major problem facing the Local Authority during the next few years. It is estimated that 3,000 houses are required in this district to house adequately the population.

Much of the property at present used for habitation falls lamentably below accepted standards, and steps will be taken immediately the opportunity presents itself for this property to be swept away.

Overcrowding is rife, with consequent detriment to the health of persons living under such conditions. Allied with the present housing shortage is the requirement for additional hospital beds for Tuberculosis and Maternity cases.

The purity of water supplies and the cleanliness of milk, have continued to receive the careful supervision of your Sanitary Officers.

I should like to pay tribute to Dr. A. M. Bowman, who carried on during my absence on War Service, and I offer my thanks to the Sanitary Inspectors for their help and co-operation during the year. My thanks are also due to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their consideration, co-operation and help at all times.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

GAVIN MILLAR,
Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH—

GAVIN MILLAR, M.B., Ch.B., B.Hy., D.P.H.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :—

THOMAS FOSTER, A.S.R.I., and Certificate in Meat Inspection of the R.S.I.

CHARLES W. ROBSON, C.R.S.I. and Certificate in Meat Inspection of the R.S.I.

A 50% grant is payable in respect of the salaries of the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Inspectors.

SECTION A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area.

The area of the district at 31st December, 1945, was 23,261 acres, and this gives a density of population of 1.68 persons per acre.

Population.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population for the Rural District for mid-year 1945 is 39,190 ; this is 410 more than the population for 1944, but considerably less than the estimated mid-year population of 1939, which was 42,150.

Inhabited houses.

The number of inhabited houses according to the rate book at the end of the year was 10,798. Number of houses occupied at Census 1931, was 12,026.

Rateable Value.

The rateable value of the district on the 31st December, 1945, was £157,482, and a penny rate represented the sum of £591.

Social Conditions.

The chief industries of the district are coal mining and agriculture ; several subsidiary industries such as the manufacture

of chemicals, production of cables, tinplate, housing components, electrical equipment, bricks, pharmaceutical products, are chiefly concentrated in the Birtley area.

It is extremely difficult to get accurate figures for the number of unemployed in the area, as the unemployed sign on at different Labour Exchanges, some of which are situated outside the Rural District.

The majority of collieries in the area have Pithead Baths, which must be a boon to the miners, more so to his wife, who no longer is called upon to deal with grime laden, damp clothing.

The familiar ugly, unsightly colliery spoil banks, scattered around the district are still present, and detract considerably from the appearance of the district, not to mention the potential danger to health of those which are burning. It should not be beyond the wit of man to fill up clay holes in the district with this refuse, or to adopt the procedure carried out in other countries of replacing stone in the pit.

It is hoped that one day, every village in the Rural District will be provided with recreational facilities. Each village, in my opinion, should have playing fields where children can enjoy fresh air and sunshine, unhampered by modern swift moving traffic, without danger to themselves, and with peace of mind to their parents, and a swimming pool where the adolescent can take part in healthy sport, with betterment to their physical condition.

The War, with restrictions in diet, has certainly taught us the value of school meals, and the provision of milk for school children. A child is thus ensured a good hot meal and an adequate mixed diet, a sound basis of good nutrition.

The provision at Welfare Centres of Cod Liver Oil and Vitamins for the under school age child has also been of inestimable value in maintaining the health of the children in the days of low caloric value diets.

The British Restaurant and Works Canteens have also fulfilled a useful purpose in augmenting a minimum diet, and it is hoped that these facilities will continue, and so help the harassed housewife to meet the nutritional demands of her family.

The diet of many of the inhabitants of the area is just on the borderline, and they are unable to maintain the fullest degree of health, which a fuller and better planned diet would make possible. In many homes, better results would obtain if greater advantage

was taken of such things as fresh air, sunlight, and a stricter control exercised over children, especially as regards adequate sleep.

Another important factor which militates against the social recovery of the inhabitants is bad housing.

There are in this district a large number of houses which are totally unfit for human habitation. There is extensive overcrowding, and it is a matter for regret and concern that many dwellings are occupied by more than one family, a state of affairs which never leads to happiness.

The Local Authority is alive to these deplorable conditions and nothing will deter them from their goal of providing a suitable house for each family as early as possible.

No scale for measuring the amount of new illness arising in the population was available in the past, except in so far as such illness was notifiable, or caused death. Out of 1,000 civilians aged 16-64, four were reported as having had one or another of the notifiable diseases during 1944, and about six were registered as having died. In January, 1944, the Wartime Social Survey began on behalf of the Ministry of Health, to interview each month about 2,500 civilians aged 16—64 in their homes, distributed at random throughout England and Wales.

From this monthly sampling enquiry, at present about six out of every ten civilians aged 16—64 developed a new illness or ailment, or suffered a fresh attack of an old one during an average three months period, though many of these caused no absence from work, and received no medical attention. Consequently incidence rates for minor ailments can now be obtained, and will be a useful index of the health of the people.

Extracts of Vital Statistics.

Live Births :

				Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate	....	...	...	694	377	317
Illegitimate	...	...	...	54	29	25
Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	...	...	...	...	...	19.0

Still Births :

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	...	38.5
	Total.	M. F.
	30	15 15

Deaths 480 251 229

Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident
population 12.2

Deaths from puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis ...	—	—
No. 30 Other Puerperal causes	2	2.57
	—	—
Total ...	2	2.57
	==	==

Death rate of infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	64
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	68
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	18
Deaths from Cancer (at all ages)	73
Deaths from Measles (at all ages)	2
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	9

Vital Statistics.

The following table gives the vital statistics of the district for 1945 and previous years :—

Year.	Estimated Resident Population Mid-Year.	Births.		Deaths.		Infant Mortality Rate.	Maternal Mortality Rate.
		No.	Rate.	No.	Rate.		
1936	47,065	809	17.0	566	11.9	61	2.36
1937	43,230	694	15.8	521	11.8	71	6.94
1938	43,030	741	17.2	446	10.4	55	2.63
1939	42,150	642	15.1	508	12.0	82	9.03
1940	40,080	750	17.5	509	12.7	64	4.00
1941	39,450	730	17.4	511	12.9	70	1.39
1942	38,610	661	16.4	500	12.9	89	1.51
1943	38,110	695	17.3	484	12.7	70	4.32
1944	38,780	808	20.0	449	11.6	75	3.72
1945	39,190	778	19.0	480	12.2	64	2.57

Births.

There were 30 fewer births registered in the area in 1945, compared with 1944. The birth rate for the past year is a little lower than in 1944 but considerably higher than in the previous decade.

Deaths.

480 deaths were registered in the area during the year, which is equal to a death rate of 12.2 per 1,000 of the population per annum. This is slightly greater than the previous year,

Included in the total number of deaths are those of 149 residents of this district who died outside the area. Six residents of other districts who died in the Rural area are excluded.

The death rates for the various townships were as follows :—

Township.	Population.	No. of deaths.	Death rate per 1,000 Population.
Biddick South ...	39	—	—
Birtley ...	10303	148	14.3
Bournmoor ...	1652	17	1.2
Edmondlsej ...	1627	17	1.4
Harraton ...	2937	25	8.5
Lambton ...	87	6	68.9
Lamesley ...	3747	57	15.2
Lumley Great ...	1367	13	9.5
Lumley Little ...	1443	22	15.2
Ouston ...	831	14	16.8
Pelton ...	6069	63	10.3
Plawsworth ...	1353	13	9.6
Urpeth ...	2210	16	7.2
Waldridge ...	716	11	15.3
Sacriston ...	4809	58	12.0

The following were the chief causes of death during the year :—

	Cause.	Death.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
1.	Diseases of Heart ...		
1.	{ Cerebral Haemorrhage and	198	41.2
	{ other Circulatory diseases ...		
2.	Cancer ...	73	15.2
3.	Respiratory Diseases ...	50	10.4
4.	Tuberculosis (all forms) ...	27	5.6
5.	Violence ...	18	3.7

The age at death is summarised below :—

	No. of Deaths.	Percentage of Total Deaths.
Under 1 year	51	10.6
1—5 years	4	0.8
5—15 years	4	0.8
15—25 years	15	3.0
25—45	31	6.5
45—65 years	129	26.8
65 years and upwards ...	246	51.5

The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar General's figures) :—

Causes of death.						Male.	Female.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	...	251	229
1. Typhoid fever, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
3. Scarlet fever	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
4. Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
6. Respiratory tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	14	11
7. Other tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
8. Syphilis	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
9. Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
10. Measles	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
11. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
12. Acute Encephalitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal cavity, oesophagus and Uterus	...	...	...	...	...	2	3
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	14	9
15. Cancer of Breast	...	...	...	...	...	—	6
16. Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...	...	...	20	19
17. Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	—	3
18. Intracranial Vascular lesions	...	...	...	...	...	27	38
19. Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	...	64	63
20. Other diseases of circulatory system	...	...	...	...	...	2	4
21. Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	21	7
22. Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	10	7
23. Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4	1
24. Peptic ulcer	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years	...	...	...	...	...	7	2
26. Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
27. Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	...	10	6
28. Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	9	3

Causes of Death.					Male.	Female.
29.	Puerperal and Post Abortion sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other maternal causes	...	...	...	—	2
31.	Premature birth	...	...	...	4	4
32.	Congenital malformation	...	...	...	8	5
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	1	2
34.	Road traffic accidents	...	...	...	3	1
35.	Other violent causes	...	...	...	7	4
36.	All other causes	...	...	...	21	22

It will be seen from the above table that there has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

The chief causes of death enumerated are regarded as the principle killing diseases.

It will also be observed that of the total deaths, 51.5% occurred in persons aged 65 years and above.

There were two deaths registered during the year from Puerperal causes, which is a decrease of one from the previous year.

Infant Mortality.

The number of deaths of infants under one year of age registered during the year is 48, and is 11 less than in the previous year. This gives an infant mortality rate of 64, compared with 75 for 1944.

A table on page 11 gives the causes of death in infants under one year of age.

Neo-natal Deaths (deaths occurring during the first month of life) numbered 21, and were responsible for 44% of the total rate. Of this number 13 died in the first week of life, which is equal to 27% of the total rate.

It will be noticed from the sub-joined table of analysis of infant deaths, that the majority of neo-natal deaths were due to prematurity and congenital malformation, whereas those between one month and twelve months were largely due to the infective diseases, namely chest and bowel conditions.

INFANT DEATH ANALYSIS.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1—2 Weeks.	2—3 Weeks.	3—4 Weeks.	Total under 4 Weeks.	1—3 months.	3—6 months.	6—9 months.	9—12 months.	Total Deaths under 1 year.
Convulsions	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	3	2	4	...	9
Premature Birth	8	1	1	...	10	...	...	...	...	10
Enteritis	...	...	...	...	...	1	6	2	...	9
Congenital Malformation...	4	2	...	1	7	1	...	...	...	8
Inanition	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	2
Accidental Deaths	...	...	1	...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Meningitis	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	1
Intussusception	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
TOTAL	13	4	2	2	21	9	9	8	1	48

BIRTH-RATE, DEATH-RATE AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1945.

	Rate per 1,000 Total Population.		Annual Death-rate per 1,000 Population.								Rate per 1,000 Live Births.	
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total deaths under one year.
England and Wales ...	16.1	0.46	11.4	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.08	5.6	46
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	19.1	0.58	13.5	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	7.8	54
148 Smaller Towns estimated Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000 at Census, 1931 ...	19.2	0.53	12.3	0.00	—	0.02	0.00	0.01	0.02	0.07	4.5	43
London ...	15.7	0.40	13.8	0.00	—	0.01	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.07	7.6	53
Chester-le-Street R.D. ...	19.0	0.76	12.2	0.00	—	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.07	12.03	64

Total.
per 1,000 Live & Still Births 0.49 1.30 1.79

The maternal mortality rates for England and Wales are as follows :

Townships.

The Chester-le-Street Rural District consists of the following townships :—Biddick South, Birtley, Bournmoor, Edmondsley, Harraton, Lambton, Lamesley, Lumley Great, Lumley Little, Ouston, Pelton, Plawsworth, Urpeth, Waldrige and Sacriston.

Population, Acreage, etc., of Townships at end of 1945.

Township.	Approx. Population.	Acreage, in Acres.	No. of Inhabited houses according to rate book.	Persons per Acre.
Biddick South	39	348	11	0.1
Birtley	10,303	1,429	2,826	7.2
Bournmoor	1,652	513	452	3.2
Edmondsley	1,627	2,099	445	0.8
Harraton	2,937	2,669	809	1.1
Lambton	87	697	28	0.1
Lamesley	3,747	6,679	1,034	0.6
Lumley Great	1,367	1,642	371	0.8
Lumley Little	1,443	875	394	1.6
Ouston	831	641	231	1.3
Pelton	6,069	926	1,679	6.5
Plawsworth	1,353	1,249	369	1.1
Urpeth	2,210	1,825	1,336	1.2
Waldrige	716	725	614	0.9
Sacriston	4,809	943	199	5.1

SECTION B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Public Health Officers of the Authority.

For a detailed list of the staff of the Public Health Department see page 4.

2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological and bacteriological specimens are examined at the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, which is now administered by a Joint Committee, comprised of representatives of the County Council of Durham, City of Newcastle, County Boroughs of Gateshead and Tynemouth.

During the year, the following bacteriological examinations were carried out with the results appended :

Disease.			Positive.	Negative.	Totals.
Diphtheria	...	...	25	80	105
Tuberculosis	...	...	21	114	135
Typhoid, Dysentry, and Food Poisoning Organisms					
...	...	...	1	6	7
C.S.M.	...	...	1	—	1

The total number of samples examined is equal to a rate of 6.3 per 1,000 of the population.

2. (b) Ambulance Facilities.

A motor ambulance is maintained by the Chester-le-Street Joint Hospital Board at the Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street, for the conveyance of infectious cases.

Arrangements have been made by the Rural District Council, with a private ambulance service for the removal of cases of Puerperal Pyrexia when they require to be taken to hospitals outside the area.

The Chester-le-Street and District Ambulance Committee maintain motor ambulances stationed at Chester-le-Street, for the conveyance of accident and non-infectious cases to hospital.

In addition to the above, the majority of Collieries in the district have their own ambulance vehicle.

(c) Nursing in the Home.

1. *General.*

General Nursing in the home is carried out in this district by the various District Nursing Associations, the majority of which are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

2. *Tuberculosis.*

All notified cases of Tuberculosis are visited by the County Health Visitors, and a card giving full details as to home conditions and circumstances is completed and sent to this office to be kept for reference. These reports are of considerable value, not only for record purposes, but they give a clear picture of conditions prevailing in the homes of the Tuberculous, and frequently bring to our notice sanitary defects which require attention.

3. *Midwives.*

The County Council is the Local Supervising Authority under the Midwives Act.

The inspection and supervision of Midwives is carried out by the County Midwives Inspector.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following list gives a brief description of the Clinics and Treatment Centres available for the inhabitants of the area :—

Name.	Situation.	Provided by.	Accommodation.
Maternity and Child Welfare	(a) Birtley. (b) Sacriston. (c) Grange Villa.	Durham Co. Council.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.
Tuberculosis.	(a) Chester-le-Street	do.	Waiting and Consulting Rooms.
School Clinics.	(a) Birtley.	do.	Medical, Dental and Optical Rooms. Waiting and Dressing Rooms.
* Venereal Diseases.	(a) Newcastle-on-Tyne. (b) Durham.	do.	Waiting, Consulting and Treatment Rooms.

*Venereal Diseases—Railway Fare Vouchers are issued to poor people by the County Council.

(e) Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.

1. *Fever.*

The Chester-le-Street Isolation Hospital is situated slightly to the North of Chester-le-Street. It is managed by a Joint Board, comprising representatives from the Rural and Urban Districts of Chester-le-Street and from the Urban District of Washington.

The accommodation consists of an administration block, Nurses' home, laundry, mortuary and disinfection room. Two open ward blocks are set aside for the treatment of Scarlet Fever, one for the treatment of Diphtheria, and there are two blocks of 18 separate cubicles for the isolation of special diseases. In all, there is accommodation for 98 beds and cots.

In this Institution, all types of infectious disease are treated, and in addition, cases of Puerperal Pyrexia and Ophthalmia Neonatorum are also treated on behalf of the County Council of Durham.

Cases of Smallpox would be sent to Shincliffe Hospital, near Durham.

2. *Tuberculosis.*

Accommodation is provided by Durham County Council in Sanatoria and Hospitals outside the district for men, women and children suffering from Tuberculosis.

There is an urgent need at the present time for additional beds for Tuberculosis. With the acute housing shortage, many cases of open Tuberculosis have, of necessity, to remain at home in overcrowded conditions, with detriment to their own health, and a danger to the health of the other occupants of the household.

3. *General, Medical and Surgical.*

General medical and orthopaedic cases from this area are treated in the various voluntary and public General Hospitals in the surrounding districts. Here again, there is an urgent need for additional beds to relieve the long waiting lists at the majority of these Hospitals.

SECTION C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. *Water.*

No extension of piped water supplies have been carried out during 1945.

The majority of properties in the district have a piped supply of water direct to the house, and only in a few isolated cases is reliance based on springs and wells. The latter are a long way from a piped supply, and at the present time it is impossible to have them connected up.

The Local Authority control supplies of water at Barley Mow, Fatfield and Lumley. This water is bought in bulk from the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., and the Durham County Water Board.

Samples of water have been taken at monthly intervals from different points in the supply area of each public undertaking and submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

During the year, 45 samples were taken, of that number 10 or 16% were reported as not satisfactory, and 5 or 8% as suspicious. In every case, a copy of the report was sent to the body concerned. Where there was an unsatisfactory report, a letter was sent asking for immediate steps to be taken to render the supply pure and wholesome. A request was also sent with the letter, asking that

the Council be informed as to what steps had been taken, and check samples were immediately obtained for examination. In the majority of cases the check samples proved to be satisfactory.

The water supply may be said to have been constant with the exception of that part of the area in Beamish and Pelton, when the supply at times has been inadequate. This absence of a constant and adequate supply in the western part of the District has been brought to the notice of the Durham County Water Board on numerous occasions. It is understood that that body is in consultation with the Ministry of Health with proposals for augmenting the supply in that area.

The water of the Durham County Water Board is a soft water, and liable to have plumbo-solvent action, but no reports as to contamination by lead have been received, and no action has been taken.

2 Drainage. and Sewerage.

I am indebted to the Acting Sanitary Surveyor for the following information :—

“ No new works of sewerage or sewage disposal were constructed during the year. Several lengths of existing sewer damaged by colliery subsidence were relaid. The position with regard to new schemes is as follows :—

(1) *Alma Sewage Disposal Works, Grange Villa.*

A scheme is being prepared for new works or an outfall to the existing sewers within the Urban District of Chester-le-Street.

(2) *Floater's Mill S.D. Works, New Lambton.*

A scheme is being prepared for the treatment of the sewage, now discharging to the Floater's Mill Works, at the Sedgeleth Works in the Houghton-le-Spring Urban District.

(3) *Birtley Outfall Sewer.*

A scheme is being prepared for the reconstruction and enlargement of capacity of this sewer which at present delivers untreated to the River Tyne. It may be that new sewage disposal works will have to be provided. The scheme is complicated by existing outfalls, known and uncertain future residential and industrial development.

(4) *Waldridge Sewage Disposal Works.*

As previously noted these new works were affected by subsidence and are the subject of investigation and partial reconstruction.

These four schemes are in the hands of Messrs. D. Balfour and Sons, Civil Engineers, who are completing the schemes for new works in the district set out in a programme drawn up in 1935 and remaining incomplete at the beginning of the war.

Further outfalls and other schemes to be undertaken by this department will be dealt with as the staff problem is made easier."

The effluent at the Alma and Floater's Mill Disposal Works leaves much to be desired, and would only be remedied when the above proposals for new works have been implemented.

3. Closet Accommodation.

No conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out during the year by the Council.

Details of the remaining ash closets and privies in the district is now being compiled for the purpose of preparing a final scheme for conversion to the water carriage system for the whole of the district.

31 conversions were carried out, under Section 47 of the Public Health Act, 1936, by owners of property, assisted by a contribution from the Local Authority of half the cost or £3 10s. 0d. whichever was the lowest amount.

4. Public Cleansing.

Formerly the district was divided for scavenging purposes into six local areas and two contract areas. During the war years this was altered, and scavenging is now centrally controlled. It is carried out wholly by direct labour and with the exception of one horse and cart is completely mechanical.

The vehicle establishment now consists of 10 No. 7 cubic yard vehicles, with one horse and cart retained to deal with difficult sites.

A high standard of refuse collection in the district is maintained, but with the further development of this department one hopes in the future to see an incinerator and the present method of tipping on land, a potential source of nuisance and fly infestation, eliminated.

5. Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Reference to the reports of Sanitary Inspectors at the end of this report will show that this work has been carried out as heretofore with care during the year.

6. Swimming Baths and Pools.

The two swimming baths in the district have continued to receive the attention of your Officers.

Samples of the water have been taken at regular intervals, and the water has always proved to be satisfactory.

There is one open air swimming bath at Birtley, constructed by the Parish Council with help from Commissioners for Special Areas, and the other, a closed pool at New Lambton, provided by the Lambton Miners' Welfare.

Both are modern in design, with efficient plants for treatment of the water by filtration and chlorination.

The swimming pool is a boon to any community, and one looks forward to the day when each township will have its own swimming pool and recreational facilities for children.

7. Eradication of Bed Bugs.

It is a matter for regret that many houses in the area are infested with bed bugs. The bed bug, whilst it is not incriminated with the propagation of disease is nevertheless responsible for much ill-health and suffering in children. By its nocturnal visits it disturbs the sleep of the child, and over a period from sucking blood gives rise to anaemia, and so lowers the resistance of the child to any disease that may be around.

Steps were taken at the beginning of 1946 to tackle this problem with the help of the new insecticide D.D.T., and so far excellent results have been obtained.

Further details with numbers of houses treated, etc., will be given in next year's report.

SECTION D.—HOUSING.

The major problem facing the Local Authority in my opinion is the satisfactory housing of the inhabitants.

With six years of war, when no new building took place, and many properties at the beginning of the war were border-line slums which have deteriorated considerably, and are now in fact slums, housing conditions throughout the district may be said to be appalling. Overcrowding is rife, and many hereditaments house more than one family. This of course is not a local matter, but is a national one, and until new houses are provided, this appalling state of affairs will continue.

The need is houses, to be occupied as soon as available, and then old houses swept from the landscape.

A comprehensive survey of conditions in the area is at the moment being compiled, and a detailed report will be published at the earliest possible moment. This report will give a complete picture of the housing needs of the area.

SECTION E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

Cow sheds, dairies and milk shops in the district are regularly visited by members of the Sanitary Staff, and everything possible is done to ensure for the inhabitants a clean milk supply.

Samples of milk are taken at regular intervals by the Sanitary Inspectors, and submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne in connection with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

715 samples of milk were taken in connection with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, and subjected to the Resazurin Test for keeping quality. The results of these samples were not disclosed to the Council, but this sampling has now been taken over by the Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The Council, therefore, gave instructions for the re-introduction of sampling of milk by the plate count and coliform content method for their own information.

175 samples of milk were taken for this purpose, and the results show that 75% of the samples were satisfactory and the remainder unsatisfactory at first test. Check samples however were taken, and on second test proved to be satisfactory.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The slaughter of animals continues to be carried out at the Government Regional Slaughter House situated at the Co-operative premises in the Urban District of Chester-le-Street.

The inspection of meat is undertaken by the three Sanitary Inspectors of the Urban and Rural Districts, each Inspector taking turns by weekly periods.

The carcasses are inspected as soon as possible after slaughter, and the work has been carried out efficiently.

Particulars of inspections carried out is contained in the report of the respective Inspectors.

SECTION F.—PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

1,103 notifications of infectious disease were received during the year, compared with 839 in the previous year and 876 in 1943. Measles, however, reached epidemic proportions and was responsible for 648 notifications, as opposed to 253 in 1944. In 42 cases, diagnosis was not confirmed.

The following table gives the number of cases notified during the past ten years :—

DISEASE.	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	215	179	226	43	50	64	111	144	93	70
Diphtheria	157	72	108	90	69	82	104	113	115	60
Enteric Fever	...	2	...	1	...	3	...	...	...	5
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	...	...	1	4	10	7	6	7	...
Poliomyelitis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	130	106	69	...	78	81	97	90	126	83
Puerperal Fever	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	5	5	12	11	7	8	5	7	3	5
Erysipelas	32	32	50	20	24	26	25	37	24	25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4	5	2	6	4	2	4	5	7	2
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	...
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	48	49	40	44	38	45	47	26	36	33
Non-pulmonary	41	27	35	26	17	20	21	17	14	10
*Measles	...	...	...	6	1033	185	470	335	253	648
*Whooping Cough	...	...	...	32	34	190	56	96	88	95
†Diagnosis not confirmed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	68	42

*From November 13th, 1939 only

†Due to Quarterly Infectious Return

INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1945.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.	AT AGES—YEARS.							TOWNSHIPS.																														
	Under 1	1 to 5	6 to 15	16 to 25	26 to 45	46 to 65	66 up.	At all ages.	January.	February.	March.	April.	May.	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	November.	December.	Biddick South	Birtley	Bournmoor	Edmondsley	Harraton	Lambton	Lamesley	Lumley, Great	Lumley, Little	Ouston	Pelton	Plawsworth	Urpeth	Walbridge	Sacriston	Total No. Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	
Diphtheria	...	11	31	9	9	...	...	60	...	...	10	8	4	5	6	5	2	1	13	6	...	12	2	5	3	...	5	4	2	1	7	2	1	1	15	60	69
Encephalitis Lethargica	
Gastro-Enteritis	
Erysipelas	2	...	9	10	4	25	1	...	5	1	3	2	2	...	1	3	4	3	...	7	1	...	...	...	3	2	1	1	5	...	...	...	5	25	6	
Ophthalmia	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...
Pneumonia	...	9	23	14	2	15	11	9	83	7	14	6	8	5	2	9	5	9	4	3	11	...	9	9	2	...	6	12	6	...	1	1	3	34	83	44
Puerperal Fever	
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	1	1	...	5	...	...	1	1	...	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	5	4	...	
Scarlet Fever	33	30	1	3	70	7	1	9	1	9	13	8	2	8	5	2	5	...	28	3	...	4	1	5	2	1	2	7	1	4	3	9	70	67
Small-pox	
Tuberculosis—Pulmonary	1	...	3	14	8	6	1	33	5	2	1	5	3	1	2	2	4	3	3	2	...	17	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	...	2	1	...	3	1	33	...
„ Non-pulmonary	...	5	2	3	...	...	...	10	...	1	...	...	1	2	1	2	...	1	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	1	2	...	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	10	...
Diagnosis not Confirmed	1	7	18	9	3	4	...	42	2	7	1	3	2	5	8	5	3	3	...	3	...	8	...	...	8	6	...	1	...	...	4	...	1	1	13	42	42
Measles	...	11	3	...	...	...	...	14	1	1	7	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5	14	14	
C. S. M.	1	1	...	1	2	...	...	5	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	1	5	5	...	
Diphtheria Carriers	2	...	...	...	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	
Whooping Cough	...	1	7	1	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	9	9	...
Total	...	15	98	106	45	50	32	14	360	25	27	39	30	29	30	37	26	30	22	28	37	...	91	7	31	18	2	26	23	11	6	30	5	9	10	91	360	253

The attack rates of the notifiable diseases per 1,000 of the population for the Rural District, compared with the rates for England and Wales are shown on the following table :—

Disease.	Chester-le-Street Rural District.	England and Wales.
Scarlet Fever	1.78	1.89
Diphtheria	1.53	0.46
Typhoid	—	0.01
Paratyphoid	—	0.01
Erysipelas	0.63	0.25
Pneumonia	2.11	0.87
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.12	0.05
Whooping Cough	16.53	1.64
Measles	2.42	11.67

Prevalence of notifiable diseases in the various townships is shown in the following table, which gives the attack rate per 1,000 of the population :—

Township.	Scarlet Fever.	Diph- theria.	Pneu- monia.	Ery- sipelas.
Biddick South	—	—	—	—
Birtley	2.71	1.16	0.87	0.67
Bournmoor	1.81	1.21	—	0.60
Edmondsley	—	3.07	5.53	—
Harraton	1.36	1.02	0.68	—
Lambton	11.49	—	—	—
Lamesley	1.33	1.33	1.60	0.80
Lumley Great	1.46	2.92	8.77	1.46
Lumley Little	0.69	1.38	4.15	0.69
Ouston	2.40	1.20	—	1.20
Pelton	1.15	1.15	0.16	0.82
Plawsworth	0.73	1.47	0.73	—
Urpeth	1.81	0.45	—	—
Waldridge	4.19	1.39	4.19	—
Sacrison	1.87	3.12	7.07	1.04

Scarlet Fever.

70 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified compared with 93 for the previous year. This is equivalent to an attack rate of 1.78 per 1,000 of the population.

The majority of the cases were in children of school age and 67 of the cases were treated in Hospital, where the average duration of stay was 28 days. The disease generally was of a mild type, and was not responsible for any deaths.

The routine treatment of all cases of Scarlet Fever in Hospital is not regarded as the best method. Provided isolation can be satisfactorily carried out at home, without interruption of normal home routine, results justify this form of treatment.

Diphtheria.

There was a marked fall in the number of cases of Diphtheria notified during the year. Notifications were received in respect of 60 cases only; this is the lowest number ever recorded in the Rural District. Part of this reduction in Diphtheria may be due to a periodic variation in the incidence of the disease which is a commonplace, but nevertheless some credit I feel for this decline must be attributed to immunisation.

Morbidity and mortality figures certainly prove the advantage of the protected over the unprotected children.

No effort has been spared during the year to bring to the notice of parents the advantages of immunisation.

Up to the end of December, 1945, the following was the position in relation to immunisation :—

2163 children under 5 years of age protected, or 64% of susceptible child population.

4,477 children over 5—15 years of age protected, or 67% of susceptible child population.

When all susceptible children have been protected against diphtheria by immunisation, diphtheria will cease to be a Public Health problem. Much work however remains to be done before this ideal is reached.

One death occurred during the year of a child who had not been immunised.

Diphtheria anti-toxin is issued to Medical Practitioners by the Local Authority for use in all cases of Diphtheria or suspected throats arising in the district.

With the introduction of Penicillin, this valuable drug is used at the Isolation Hospital, Chester-le-Street to support older methods of treatment, with excellent results.

I would again stress, however, the necessity for the early administration of adequate doses of anti-toxin. The earlier this is given the greater are the chances of recovery.

Pneumonia.

There was a big decrease in the number of notifications received and in the deaths registered from this disease.

83 cases were notified as against 126 in the previous year and 17 deaths were registered against 31 in 1944. The treatment of pneumonia has made great strides during the past years with the introduction of drugs of the sulphonamide group, and of more recent times by the introduction of Penicillin. There is no doubt that many lives have been saved as a result of these drugs.

As Influenza is not a notifiable disease, its prevalence is not known to the Public Health Officer, except that the notifications of pneumonia are generally taken as an index of its presence. It would appear, therefore, that Influenza of a severe type was not prevalent during the year.

Enteric Fever.

It is pleasing to report that no notifications of this disease were received during the year.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

There was a slight reduction in the incidence of Cerebro-spinal fever, and no deaths were recorded from this disease. Here again, chemotherapeutic agents and penicillin have succeeded in reducing very considerably the mortality from this disease. Before the introduction of these drugs, the case mortality was 75% whereas it is now practically nil.

Cancer.

73 deaths were registered during the year as being due to Cancer, which is equal to a death rate of 1.86 per 1,000 of the population. The death rate from this disease shows a slight increase on the previous year.

Of the 73 deaths, 36 occurred in males and 37 in females. No undue occupational prevalence was noted.

Tuberculosis.

No action was taken during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis).

New cases and mortality from Tuberculosis during 1944 :—

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary.		Non-pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5 ...	1	—	3	2	—	—	—	1
5-15 ...	3	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
15-25 ...	6	8	—	3	3	7	—	—
25-35 ...	2	3	—	—	2	2	—	1
35-45 ...	—	2	—	—	1	2	—	—
45-55 ...	3	—	—	—	3	1	—	—
55-65 ...	3	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 & over	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	19	14	5	5	13	12	—	2

The following table gives the notifications and deaths occurring in the Rufal District during the past five years.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.		Non-Pulmonary	
	Notifications.	Deaths.	Notifications.	Deaths.
1941	45	29	20	3
1942	47	27	21	6
1943	26	24	17	2
1944	36	17	14	5
1945	33	25	10	2

The Local Authority supplies disinfectants to tuberculous persons for the disinfection of sputum and the washing of floors, etc.

Houses in which deaths take place from Tuberculosis are disinfected by the Local Authority, and any bedding which cannot be disinfected by steam is destroyed and the household compensated.

Maintenance allowances are available to certain classes of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis, who give up remunerative employment on the advice of the Tuberculosis Officer to undergo Sanatorium or other approved forms of treatment, and the cost is refunded to the County Council by the Government.

The criteria for an improvement in the prevalence of Tuberculosis, are good housing, an adequate standard of nutrition, and good working conditions. One therefore looks forward to the day

when each case of open tuberculosis is adequately housed, with a room to himself. The introduction of the National Scheme of Social Insurance should also assist the unfortunate sufferer.

Mass radiography will help in detecting cases earlier, and perhaps the day is not far off, when more use will be made of the intradermal and patch test methods for the early detection of the disease, particularly in children.

In the U.S.A., research continues for a chemotherapeutic agent, with a specific effect on the tubercle bacillus, and so far the results appear to be encouraging.

Scabies.

Persons suffering from Scabies continue to be treated at Elisabethville School, Birtley. Here a nurse and two lay assistants are employed on a sessional basis by the Local Authority, and sessions are held twice per week in premises previously used for A.R.P. purposes, and equipped with showers, hot water supply, etc.

The number of cases treated has shown a gradual decline. In every case attempts are made to treat not only the individual case, but all contacts in the household.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council

(NORTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my 17th Annual Report on the Sanitary Administration and Housing Conditions in the Northern Area of your District, and on matters connected with the health and welfare of the inhabitants of the district.

With the war at an end we can now look confidently forward to the resumption of our normal activities, and as restrictions on the supply of labour and materials are removed, many long delayed improvements should be effected.

Details of the Works carried out during the Year are shown in the Schedules at the end of the report.

Area.

There has been no alteration in the boundaries of the Northern Area which includes the Parishes of Birtley, Harraton, Lamesley, Ouston and Urpeth, with an area of 12,216 acres and a population of 19,446.

Housing.

The re-housing of people living under conditions in property unfit for occupation, the housing of the homeless, and the provision of houses to remedy the enormous amount of overcrowding in the Area, is without doubt the greatest problem of the post-war period in this Area.

Houses which were dealt with under Slum Clearance in 1937 have rapidly deteriorated, owing to the lack of interest by the owners, and the neglect of repairs to keep the houses reasonably fit. These houses are now definitely unfit for occupation, but must

be used, owing to the fact that there is no alternative accommodation in which to rehouse the people.

There are a very large number of newly married couples, who have never had a home, and some who have been married upwards of 10 years and have families, who have no home of their own, and are now finding cover with their friends and relatives, in some cases the families being divided and living in separate premises.

Overcrowding is rampant throughout the area, the separation of the sexes is impossible. Recent cases investigated have shown in several cases, that two married couples sleeping in one room is fairly common, and even three married couples have been found in two cases to occupy one small attic, using curtains as screens. It is quite common to find Father Mother and adult boys and girls, sleeping in the same room.

In addition to the bad moral effect these conditions have on adolescents, it is my opinion that overcrowding is one of the contributory causes of the verminous houses which are so prevalent in the area. Owing to the overcrowded conditions of the occupants, and the accumulation of furniture, the woman loses heart, the house becomes neglected and dirty. Escape from these conditions is only to be found at the Cinema or other places, where comparative comfort is to be found, and the house becomes a cover and not a home, with a consequent neglect of the finer instincts of human nature and good citizenship.

Additional houses are the only remedy for these conditions, and these are needed in large numbers and quickly.

The above conditions preclude any action by your Officers' to get rid of undesirable properties, which even now are unfit for habitation, a considerable number of which have been inspected and recorded with a view to being dealt with under the Housing Acts, but which must remain until the more urgent needs of the area are met with regard to overcrowding, etc.

Infestation and Disinfestation.

This is a matter which has been under consideration since before the war, when a scheme was put forward for disinfestation of premises with H.C.N., but owing to the war restrictions had to be shelved. With the return to peace it is the Council's intention to deal with this matter energetically and a scheme has been prepared for dealing with this scourge through the medium of D.D.T. The scheme includes, in addition to houses, treatment of

all furniture and clothing before entering the house, and a further systematic inspection of the houses to keep the premises free from infestation. It is estimated that a considerable saving will be effected by this method.

Water Supply.

Practically the whole of the Northern Area of your district is supplied by water from three Water Companies : The Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co., Durham County Water Board and the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries, Ltd. The water is chlorinated before it enters the district, and in the large majority of cases, it is laid into the houses.

Stand pipes are still in existence at some of the older properties, and there are a few houses which are not within a reasonable distance of the mains, which are dependent upon local supplies, wells, springs, etc., all these supplies have been analysed and proved fit for human consumption.

Samples of water are taken monthly from the service pipes, and delivered to the Public Health Department, King's College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne for bacteriological examination, and copies of the reports are sent to each of the Companies concerned for their necessary action.

During the year 39 samples were taken ; 28 were satisfactory ; 4 suspicious ; and 7 unsatisfactory, details of which are appended.

No chemical analysis were made.

The supply of water to the area as regards quantity has been satisfactory during the year, with the exception of part of Urpeth Parish, where for a period of three weeks to a month, the shortage of supply, chiefly due to frost, caused great inconvenience to the residents.

This is the only part of your district, in my area, where there is real cause for complaint. The intermittency of this supply, chiefly during the day periods, has been general since I came here 17 years ago, and no effective action has been taken to overcome the difficulty. The enlargement of the trunk mains from the reservoir seems to be the only solution.

There are 5,415 houses with a water supply laid direct into the houses, 90 houses which are supplied by means of stand pipes or taps outside, and 16 houses supplied from wells, spring, etc.

Report on Samples of Water Analysed :

<i>Source.</i>	<i>Samples.</i>	<i>Satis- factory.</i>	<i>Sus- picious.</i>	<i>Unsatis- factory.</i>
Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	12	8	2	2
Durham County Water Board	12	7	2	3
Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Collieries	12	10	—	2
Birtley Baths—Newcastle and Gateshead Water Co.	3	3	—	—
	—	—	—	—
	39	28	4	7
	==	==	==	==

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milk Supply.

The number of Dairy Farms in the district is 27, one having given up during the year.

The dairies comprise 1 Certified, 12 Accredited, and 14 Ordinary producers.

Of these, 8 sell all their milk retail within the Area ; 14 sell part of the milk in the area, and part outside the area, and 5 sell the whole of their milk outside the Area.

Of the total quantity of milk produced in the area only 38.05% is consumed in the Area, 61.95% is exported, and a similar quantity is imported to meet the demands of the district chiefly from the large processing dairies in the adjacent areas.

Milk sampling has been carried out during the year by the Council, and also on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, for the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme.

The Dairies and Cowsheds in the Area are regularly inspected, and a good standard of cleanliness is maintained.

Milk Sampling.

During the year, 499 samples of milk were taken and submitted to the Agricultural Department, King's College, Newcastle-on-Tyne, in connection with the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. These samples were tested by the Resazurin Test, and no report of the results were received by the Council.

82 samples were taken on behalf of the Council, and were tested by the above Department, by the Plate Count and Coliform content method. The results show that 62 samples, or 75.61%

were satisfactory, and 20 samples or 24.39% were unsatisfactory on first test. Check samples were taken, and on second test proved satisfactory.

Closet Accommodation.

With the exception of one-third or 220 of the houses in Urpeth Parish where outfall works are not satisfactory, and outlying isolated houses which are not within reasonable distance of a sewer, practically the whole of the Area is now served by the water carriage system.

The total number of inhabited houses in the Area is 5,521, of which 369 still rely on the conservancy system, many of these dry closets are in connection with houses which have been condemned under Slum Clearance Schemes and which will be abolished when houses are available to rehouse the tenants.

During the year 9 conversions to the water carriage system have been carried out with financial assistance from the Council, the amount being one-half of the cost or £3 10s. 0d., whichever is the lower.

The closet accommodation in the Area is as follows :—

Water Closets	...	...	5915
Ash Closets	...	...	315
Privies	...	...	118

Scavenging.

Since my last report, all contract work has been terminated, and all the work is now carried out by direct labour under the Superintendent of Cleansing, who is also responsible for the garage, where all maintenance repairs are carried out by mechanics, under his supervision. He is also responsible for the maintenance and care of the British Restaurant Vans which deliver meals throughout the Area.

There are 11 mechanically propelled vehicles employed on the Scavenging, and the work is carried out by 9 teams of men, comprising 4 men and 1 driver to each team.

All bins are collected bi-weekly, and ashpits and ash-closets are emptied weekly.

There is perfect co-operation between the Scavenging Department and myself, the work is kept well up-to-date, and complaints with regard to neglect of scavenging are extremely rare.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Slaughtering of meat for the area is carried out at the Government Regional Slaughter House, situated on the premises of the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society in the Chester-le-Street Urban Area, and serves both the Urban and Rural Areas.

A rota of inspection of meat has been arranged between the three inspectors of the two areas, each inspector taking turn by weekly periods. The work is carried out harmoniously between the inspectors and the staff at the slaughter house.

All carcasses are inspected as soon as possible after slaughtering, and the work is carried out as efficiently as circumstances will permit, under conditions which are not all that we could desire from an inspector's point of view, the remedy for which would be the re-adaptation of the premises.

The following carcasses and all offals were inspected during the year :—

Bulls	...	10	Calves	...	80
Cows	...	155	Sheep	...	2373
Steers	...	284	Pigs	...	109
Heifers	...	362			

The following meat was condemned during the year, and dealt with in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

		lbs.			lbs.
Beef	...	5217½	Guts	...	648
Mutton	...	35	Fat	...	680
Bovine Heads	...	373	Tripes	...	319
Pigs Heads	...	119	Manifold	...	108
Lungs	...	1210	Spleen	...	24
Livers	...	1197	Tail	...	20
Plucks	...	23	Udders	...	366
Hearts	...	57	Feet	...	62
Skirts	...	18	Kidneys	...	7

Total weight of meat destroyed :—4 tons, 13 cwt. 2 qrs., 11½ lbs

Other Foods Condemned.

	lbs.	ozs.		lbs.	ozs.
Tinned Meat ...	419	14	Syrup ...	24	0
Tinned Fish ...	94	5	Cocoa ...	3	12
Butter ...	102	12	Biscuits ...	11	0
Cheese ...	2	0	Cornflakes ...	1	8
Tinned Peas ...	21	6	Crisps ...	1	8
Tinned Beans ...	64	12	Tea ...	0	8
Rice ...	186	0	Chocolate ...	0	8
Tinned Milk ...	187	4	Sugar ...	5	8
Bacon ...	15	8	Potatoes ...	280	0
Jam ...	286	8	Oranges ...	265	0
Pudding Mixture ...	37	0	Lard ...	3	4
Pickles ...	4	4	Flour ...	14	0
Tinned Soup ...	6	12	Margarine ...	17	0
Tinned Carrots ...	1	0	Eggs ...	510	

Total weight condemned, 18 cwts. 1 qr., 12 lbs., 13 ozs.

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

Licences are issued under the above Act, annually for the period January 1st, to December 31st, inclusive.

During the year, 16 Licences were issued for the storage of 12,782 gallons of petrol, and 10 licences were issued for the storage of Carbide of Calcium of a total weight of 604 tons 9 cwts. 76 lbs.

The premises are regularly inspected and kept in good order, and there has been no cause for complaint during the year.

Infestation Order, 1943. S.R. and O. 680.

This Order has been operated during the year by the Sanitary Inspectors, on non-agricultural properties, the County Council having the responsibility of disinfestation in the Agricultural Area.

The complaints received were satisfactorily dealt with.

The Council have, with the approval of the Ministry, appointed a Rodent and Pest Officer for the whole area, as a whole-time job, and he has now commenced these duties, working in conjunction with the Health Department.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summary of Notices Served and Complied with.

Description.	Number of		Number of		Remarks.
	Informal Notices Served.		Formal Notices Served.	Notices Complied With.	
Foul Conditions ...	12		2	14	
Structural Defects ...	234		1	217	
Overcrowding ...	...		...	...
Dairies and Milk Shops...	1		...	1	
Cowsheds...	...		...	...
Slaughter Houses ...	...		...	...
Ashpits and Privies ...	9		...	9	
Deposits of Refuse ...	7		...	7	
Water Closets ...	30		...	27	
Defective Yard Paving	...		...	...
Defective Traps ...	10		...	10	
Defective Drains ...	27		...	27	
Defective Water Supply	36		...	36	
Bakehouses ...	...		...	...
Animals Improperly kept	...		...	...
Smoke Nuisances ...	...		...	...
Defective Ashbins ...	86		...	86	
Totals ...	452		3	434	

Summary of Works carried out.

New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	57
Defective Drains	...	...	...	...	...	37
Inspection Chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	22
Vent shafts erected	...	...	...	...	...	4
New W.C. constructed	...	...	...	...	...	16
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38
E.C. converted into W.C.	...	...	...	...	...	9
Houses Demolished	...	...	...	...	...	16
New scullery sinks	...	...	...	...	...	46
Scullery sinks repaired	...	...	...	...	...	8
New ashbins provided	...	...	...	...	...	86
Yards cemented	...	...	...	...	...	12
Chimneys rebuilt	...	...	...	...	...	43
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	114
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	75
Walls cemented	...	...	...	...	...	80
Walls plastered	...	...	...	...	...	40

New ceilings	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New windows fixed	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	52
Stairs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
New floors	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Pantries repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Water supply improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Foul conditions remedied	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Accumulation of refuse removed				...	...	...	7
Cowsheds cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

THOS. FOSTER,

Cert. Sanitary Inspector, R.S.I.

Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods, R.S.I.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

Health Department,

6, Red Rose Terrace,

Chester-le-Street.

Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

(SOUTHERN AREA).

Sanitary Inspector's Annual Report for the Year 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the Chester-le-Street Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my sixth annual report on the sanitary administration of the Southern Area of your district. In this sixth year of war, it has been exceedingly difficult to maintain the standard of Local Government machinery as in the past.

The material and manpower situation so long deficient is still acute, and this has its direct influence on the nature and amount of work accomplished. I wish to acknowledge with gratitude the cordial co-operation and assistance of the Council and my colleagues.

Area.

The Southern district includes the Parishes of Great Lumley, Little Lumley, Bournmoor, Plawsworth, Sacriston, Pelton and Waldrige, and covers an area of 11,398 acres with an approximate population of 20,000.

Housing.

It is difficult to add to this all important subject without reiterating the stark facts which are still uppermost in our minds, and which have been presented to you in each report since 1939.

Whenever opportunity has presented itself to alleviate any cases of overcrowding or bad housing conditions, this course has been adopted, but I regret to say circumstances have only made it possible to toy with the situation so far.

I will, however, content myself with these few remarks as more detailed reports on this important aspect of Public Health administration have been made by the Medical Officer of Health. We all trust that now hostilities have ceased, it may not be long before we see that progress for which we have so long waited.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Public Health Act, 1936. Section 47.

Applications for a grant towards the cost of converting ash-

closets to the water carriage system were made and granted in 22 instances, and the work was completed to my satisfaction.

Dairies and Cowsheds.

All Cowsheds and Dairies in the area have been visited at least twice during the year. In spite of labour difficulties, the standard of cleanliness maintained has, generally speaking, been quite satisfactory. Work has been commenced on the conversion of a stable adjoining a cowshed, to a continuation of the existing cowshed at New Lambton Farm. This work when complete will consolidate and improve the milk production unit on the farm.

Of 29 registered producers of milk on the register, 17 are producer retailers, 11 wholesale producers, and 1 wholesale and retail producer, and 3 registered dairymen retail milk only. In addition to the pasteurised milk retailed by the Co-operative Society. Included in the above are 6 accredited producers.

Milk samples were taken during the year for the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme, under the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; 216 samples were taken and subjected to the Resazurin Test for keeping quality. The results of these samples were not disclosed to us. This sampling has now been taken over by the Officials of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries themselves, and as a result the bi-annual plate count, and B. Coli. tests were re-introduced by this Council.

The number of samples taken for the plate and B. Coli. test was 93; this number includes six pasteurised milks, subjected to the phosphatase test. All unsatisfactory results were investigated and check samples taken. An analysis of the results on initial samples shows 77% coming within the accredited standard, and 57% of pasteurised milks passing the phosphatase test.

Water Samples.

The Southern Area is supplied by mains from the Durham County Water Board, and the Lambton, Hetton and Joicey Supply.

Samples are taken from various points in the area, and submitted monthly to the Public Health Department of King's College, Newcastle, for bacteriological examination.

From 35 samples submitted, 7 were unsatisfactory, and 28 satisfactory.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Together with the Urban Authorities Inspector our meat supplies are regularly inspected in rota, at the Government Regional Abattoir situated at the premises of the Chester-le-Street Co-operative Society.

The following carcasses of meat have been examined by me throughout the year :—

Steers	...	259	Calves	...	...	75
Heifers	...	294	Pigs	...	...	68
Cows	...	128	Sheep	...	...	3210
Bulls	...	11				

The amount of meat condemned as being unfit for food and disposed of is :—

				Stones	lbs.
8 carcasses of Cow Beef	...	...	...	229	10
1 carcase of Heifer Beef	...	...	...	32	1
1 Forequarter of Cow Beef	...	...	...	9	12
Bruised Beef	...	...	...	1	1
1 Carcase of Mutton	...	...	...	2	6
47 Bovine Lungs	...	...	...	39	7
62 Bovine Livers	...	...	...	56	11
12 Bovine Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	25	5
Bovine Fats and Other Organs	...	...	...	130	6
2 Sheep Heads and Tongues	...	...	...		8
Mutton Fats	...	...	...	1	7
3 Sheep Plucks	...	...	...		13
1 Pigs Head	...	...	...	1	12
1 Pigs Pluck	...	...	...		9
Pork Fats	...	...	...		8
				<hr/> 533	<hr/> 4

Total weight condemned, 3 tons, 7 cwts., 3 qrs., 1 st., 2 lbs.

Other articles of food inspected at various retail premises within my district and condemned as being unfit for food consist of :—

				Sts.	lbs.	ozs.
218 tins of	Meat Products	...	...	45	3	12
68	„ Fish Products	...	...	3	10	8
41	„ Milk	...	...	2	11	1
8	„ Soup	...	...	0	7	8
66	„ Vegetables	...	...	6	8	12
1	„ Fruit	...	...	0	2	0
6	„ Preserves	...	...	0	12	0
5	„ Syrup	...	...	0	10	0
	Fried Fruit	...	...	7	4	8
	1018 Packet of Cereals	...	...	39	7	4
	Sugar	...	...	3	3	8
	Cheese	...	...	3	4	0

90 Packets of Pudding Powders and Puddings	...	...	...	3	5	0
28 Packets baking powder	...	...	...	0	7	0
Butter	...	...	...	4	7	12
Margarine	...	...	...	4	0	4
Bacon	...	...	...	0	8	0
102 Bottles of Sauce	...	...	...	1	10	0
Bread and Flour	...	...	...	6	0	0
3032 Eggs (Approx.)	...	...	...	27	0	4
Total weight condemned				...	161	11
				...	1	

Factory Act.

Inspection of factories in my area have been carried out and conditions generally have been found satisfactory.

Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.

During the year 11 licences for the storage of 9,200 gallons of petrol, one for 5 gallons of naphtha and five for 21 cwts. of calcium carbide.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Summary of Notices Served.

Description.	Number of Informal Notices Served.	Number of Formal Notices Served.	Number of Notices Complied with.	Remarks.
Foul Conditions	5	...	5	
Structural Defects	54	...	32	
Overcrowding	4	...	4	
Dairies and Milk Shops	...	...	...
Cowsheds	9	...	9	
Bakehouses	3	...	3	
Ash Pits and Privies	6	...	5	
Deposits & Refuse	2	...	2	
Water Closets	9	...	6	
Defective Yard Paving	...	...	...
Defective Traps	3	...	2	
Defective Drains	31	1	27	
Do. Water Supplies	3	...	3	
Dust Bins	2	...	2	
Privy Conversions	22	...	22	
Totals	153	1	122	

Summary of Works carried out.

New drains laid	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Defective drains	...	...	...	...	...	...	35
Inspection chambers constructed	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Inspection chambers repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
W.C.'s repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
A.C's. repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water supplies repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Ceilings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bins provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Kitchen ranges repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	49
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Roof repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Doors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	21
Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Pointing	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Outhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Foul conditions	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Interior walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Waste pipes	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Yard walls	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Chimney stacks	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Bathrooms	...	...	...	...	...	...	3

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES W. ROBSON,
Sanitary and Meat and Food Inspector.

